

S. G. h.
1791.1

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LETTER

TO

Dr. ADDINGTON of *Reading*,

ON

His Refusal to join in Consultation with a
PHYSICIAN, who had taken his Degree
abroad, and was approved and licensed by
the College of PHYSICIANS in LONDON.

By RICHARD RUSSEL, M. D.

*Falsus honor juvat, et mendax infamia terret
Quem, nisi mendosum, et MEDICANDUM ?*

HOR. Lib. I. Epist. 16.

What knowest Thou, that We know not ? What understandest Thou, which is not in Us ? JOB xv. 9.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE publication of the following Letter has been delayed now almost a full year, in hopes that the Treatment received might by time and reflection appear in its proper colours to the Authors of it. But since I find it does not, I can no longer defer this Vindication of myself, against both the Principal and his under-Agents. And tho' this Vindication with respect to the former, I hope, may prove sufficient; yet, as to the latter, I find myself under an absolute necessity of doing something more: in order to place myself in such a state of Independence, that I may do justice to my Patients; and secure both them and myself from all the ill effects to which we have been hitherto exposed, from two causes, viz. an absolute refusal by some to make up my Prescriptions, and an adulteration of them by others. By this total or partial negative, which the compounders of medicines have thought fit to put upon my Prescriptions, my Patients have been sometimes deprived of any Remedies at all, and at others of the effect which they might hope for from them. This has naturally given others a diffidence and unwillingness to put themselves under my care; since, whatever good opinion they might

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might possibly entertain of my Skill, they might justly suspect that it would be rendered ineffectual by such proceedings as these.

I know but one single Method which can prevent these Practices and Suspicions, and that is, for the future to prepare and dispense my own Medicines, to all who shall desire them; and to take particular care that they shall consist of the very best Materials, which will be of great advantage to my Patients. And whoever shall represent this as an uncommon thing, and below the dignity of a Graduate Physician, upon a little inquiry he will find, that a great number of Physicians do the same in all parts of England; and some not far off, particularly Dr. YATES and Dr. BARHAM at Hartford. But I must ingenuously own, that the thought of putting this Method in practice here, was first suggested to me by Dr. ADDINGTON himself.

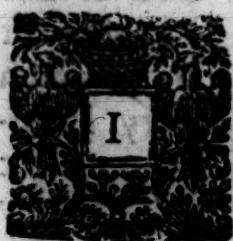
I intend likewise, every Thursday, being market-day, to give my advice gratis, to All those who shall ask it, and whose circumstances may be too narrow to permit them to advance the usual Fees.



A

LETTER, &c.

SIR,



N justice to my own Character, I find myself obliged to address to you, in this public manner, the following LETTER ; the necessity of which will gradually appear to every Reader, more and more, as he proceeds in the perusal of it.

When, upon the advice and recommendation of several Gentlemen, I first formed the design of settling in this place ; lest it should give Dr. MERRICK or You any unreasonable umbrage, particular care was taken to inform you early of it, in such a manner as seemed likely to be the least disagreeable. The Gentleman who waited upon you, delivered a Letter to each of you, from a hand most intimately known to either ; and was received and dismissed by Both, with as great civility as he could expect or desire. And had your subsequent conduct been as consonant thereto, as Dr. MERRICK's has been ; I should have had no occasion at this time to lay before you the inconsistency of it.

A

To

To give weight to the contents of your Friend's LETTER, the Bearer, who always thought the most open and undisguised way of acting, the likeliest to have the best effect, acquainted you, in the frankest manner, both with the Method in which I had proceeded in my Studies, and with the Views I had in designing to settle in this part of the country : and the substance of his conversation with you on this occasion, according to his repeated assurances, was this.

That having been educated at *Westminster* school for eight years, under the care of Dr. FRIEND, I directly applied myself to one of those Arts, and afterwards to the rest, which are generally looked upon as a necessary Introduction to the knowledge of Physic. That having gone through several courses of Botany and Anatomy, under the most eminent Professors of each, I put myself under the direction of a Chemist of great business ; where I had the best opportunity of getting an insight not, only into Chemistry, but into the whole *Materia Medica*, and the composition of all sorts of * Medicines. That during this time, at proper intervals, I read the Books recommended to me by the most eminent Physicians ; and attended Hospitals and Infirmaries, where I saw and observed their Method of treating almost all kinds of Diseases. That I afterwards went to *Paris*, where, under the instruction of Monsieur GRECOIRE, the most celebrated Man-midwife, I had a repeated sight of, and likewise performed

* A Knowledge highly necessary for every Physician, who is willing to detect the abuse of his Prescriptions, and to do justice to his Patients.

myself

myself all the Operations necessary, in unnatural, as well as natural Births. That having taken a * Degree in Physic, I returned to *England*; and having been examined by the College of Physicians in *London*, received from them a Diploma, acknowledging the validity of that Degree, and granting me their LICENCE to practise. That having been † chosen Physician to that Branch of *Christ's Hospital* which is at *Ware* in *Hartfordshire*, I had for several years a great ‡ number of Boys under my care; who being continually subject to distempers, had afforded me, together with my other Practice, a large Scene of experience, by a variety of dangerous Cases. And, lastly, that my Design in coming to *Henley*, was to practise Physic and Man-midwifery there, as I had hitherto constantly done.

Upon hearing this, Sir, you made no other objection than such as seemed consistent enough with a regard to your Friend's recommendation; expressing only some diffidence and apprehension with respect to my success. You said, that this place was too near *Reading* to support a Physician; and that none, for many years, had succeeded here: and therefore you advised the preference of *High-Wickham*, where there was neither Physician nor Man-midwife of any eminence, nor at any other Town so near that as *Reading* is to *Henley*.

Being satisfied that this was a just Representation of what passed between You and my Friend, I could not but be greatly surprised at the gene-

* At *Rheims*, where the famous Dr. PITCAIRN took his.

† Upon the Testimonial and recommendation of Dr. MEAD, Dr. MONROE, and Dr. DOD.

‡ Near two hundred.

ral allarm among the Apothecaries here, upon my first appearance in this place ; tho' I had declared to them, that I had no intention of mixing up my own Medicines, (as is usual with the Physicians of *Hartfordshire*, from whence I came hither) if they would ingenuously do justice to my Prescriptions. Notwithstanding which, many false Stories were spred about, and among the rest one of a complicated nature, of which, with great appearance of probability, You was reported to be the Author, *viz.* That from the account my Friend gave you of my Design, you could not well tell, whether I intended to practise as an Apothecary, Surgeon, Man-midwife, or Physician. No Invention could have been more cruel than this, nor more basely calculated to do me mischief ; which, by threatening, and seeming to strike at the particular interest of each of the Apothecaries, united them all against me. Tho' this gave me some suspicion of your not having the best intentions towards me, yet it was with no small difficulty that I could imagine you to be the real Author of such a Story ; since You yourself, by way of complaint to me, had been pleased to contradict it, telling me, that by the Account you had received from my Friend who carried, and from yours who wrote that Letter, you concluded, that I intended to practise only Man-midwifery. And yet my Friend still absolutely avers, that he told you, that I intended to practise Physic also ; and that the words of your Friend's Letter, which he read before it was sealed, were likewise to the same purpose ; and that the Gentleman who wrote it has declared to him since, that he never gave

gave you any other account of my intentions by word of mouth.

Thus disappointed and undermined by Enemies, wearing the smiling countenance of Friends, and exposed to the whispered insinuations, reflections, and censures of the credulous and the malicious ; I notwithstanding met with some sincere and candid Persons, who heartily espoused my Cause, and shewed me real instances of regard and favour, the number of whom was daily increasing. This encouraged me to keep my ground, in a situation not very easy ; which yet, tho' often disagreeable, was sometimes diverting. For I imagined it to be not unlike that of a person, who being got into the midst of an audience at a Puppet-shew, was obliged to hear himself abused and railed at by the *Bulky Hero* of the Drama, and his *Wooden Brethren*, without being able to discover the chief Artist, who alone formed all the articulate sounds. Unwilling either to interrupt the diversion by an unseasonable reply, or to disturb the Audience by forcing myself from it abruptly, I resolved to sit it out with patience, and leave the merits of the Piece to the judgment of the Spectators. But the Master of the Theatre, finding that his Farce did not meet with that applause which he desired and expected, came forth suddenly from behind the Scenes, pulled off his mask, and by one bold *Coup d'éclat* endeavoured to demolish me at once.

On Monday the 25th of July, You, Sir, was sent for to Mr. COMBEE, Master of the Workhouse at this place, who had been under my care about four days, in order to our having a Consultation upon his Case. This was done, I

assure

assure you, without the least advice of mine ; there being, in my opinion, no occasion at all for it, as the Disease was very apparent, and the Method of treatment obvious enough. At this time, after you had examined the Patient, You thought proper to ask me several Questions, and to get from me what information you could concerning his Case ; as any other Physician would have done, that intended to consult with me : all which Questions I very ingenuously answered, not suspecting your design. After this, you desired me to walk into another room, where shutting the door, you told me, That you was under an obligation which hindered you from joining in Consultation with me, having entered into an *Agreement* some time ago with several Physicians, not to consult with any of the Profession who had not taken a Degree either at *Oxford* or *Cambridge* ; among whom you named Dr. FREWIN and Dr. PIT^T of *Oxford*, Dr. HAYES of *Windsor*, and Dr. ZINZAN of *Reading*. This, I told you, among other things, could not but seem very strange to me, with whom the last had actually consulted ; and with whom Dr. HAYES had declared to a Patient of mine his willingness to consult, if occasion required : at which you expressed no small wonder. After a while, Mrs. COMBEE being call'd in, you repeated to her part of that which had passed between you and me in private ; and it was left to her to determine, under whose care she would have the Patient remain. She retired, and having asked the advice of the Apothecary, who was then in the house, soon returned, and desired you to *write* for her Husband ; an expression that shewed plainly from whence her orders came.

came. This you did pretty constantly for near a Fortnight ; towards the conclusion of which, you met a Gentleman on the road, to whom you declared Mr. COMBEE to be out of danger : in which hopeful state he did not long continue ; for it was soon thought necessary to call in an eminent Physician from *Oxford* to a Consultation ; who accordingly came, but it was all to no purpose, for two days after the Patient made his final *Exit*.—And here give me leave to ask you and the world, Is it at all probable, that you would have so eagerly engrossed the sole management of this Patient, if you had sincerely thought his Case very dangerous, at the time you obliged me to quit him ? Since you could propose no reputation to yourself by discarding me from a Patient you could not cure ; is it not more likely, that you acted from a different motive, and that you had judgment sufficient to distinguish that the Patient's illness was at that interval by no means desperate. Thoughts like these might encourage you to make the rash and fruitless experiment of endeavouring to augment your reputation at the expence of mine. You might fancy, that a refusal to join in Consultation with me, would indicate a superior dignity in you ; and that the recovery of a Patient (tho' surreptitiously taken from me) would shew a superior Judgment. But, Sir, the Consequence may convince you, that if you aim at displaying abilities in Physic superior to mine, you must find out some other Proof ; for from the Event of Mr. COMBEE's Case, you can by no means claim any preference.

This Catastrophe, so fatal to Mr. COMBEE, rendered your Refusal to consult with me less detrimental

detrimental at that time ; as it was undeniably evident here, that a Patient, taken out of my hands in a mending way, had died under yours, who might possibly have recovered, had he continued under mine. But it has since had, in some measure, the Effect intended by you, as far as your influence could reach ; and which, according to the self-interested views of the little practitioners in Physic, could not but naturally follow. It has given them an opportunity of representing me in a very disadvantageous light. For looking upon your Refusal to be a formal Degradation of all who have not been *regularly bred at Oxford or Cambridge*, to whom alone, according to your notion, belongs the Title of *Regular Physicians*, some of them have had the assurance to treat me as a person void of proper medicinal Education. Such Treatment, had it not come from men whose behaviour is beneath my notice, might have rendered it necessary to make some Observations upon Universities in general, and upon the Degrees given in them ; and to draw a just Comparison between those at home, and those abroad. But, as I have no inclination to enter into any such invidious Comparison, so I think I have no manner of occasion ; since, I hope, this LETTER will make it appear to all impartial Persons, especially those within this neighbourhood, that my Degree is as valid as any other, and that it was conferred upon me, after an application to the study of Physic, as *regular* as your own.

I might justly assert, without adding my reasons, that Universities in general, and the Degrees given in them, stand upon such a level, that a Physician who has proceeded at one, has a right to

to be acknowledged as such by all those who are Graduates of any other : but, supposing any deficiency in them, there is in our Country a particular Establishment, which has an effectual power to remove all prejudices which may arise from any seeming irregularity in Foreign Degrees. The Royal College of Physicians, founded by King HENRY VIII. and confirmed and augmented by several succeeding Princes, is empowered to cite and examine Practitioners in Physic, and to prohibit or permit them, according as their deficiency or ability shall appear upon that examination. Their power extends over all persons practising in any part of *England*, except Graduates of *Oxford* or *Cambridge*; and so far even over these, as to allow or hinder their practice in *London*, or within seven miles thereof. And as this College stands upon the same authority with both Universities, viz. Royal GRANTS and CHARTERS, and by its constitution is rendered even superior to either, with regard to one branch of Science, the exercise of the Art of Physic within one particular district; their allowance of the validity of any Foreign Degree, is a sufficient Confirmation of it, and their *Licence* to practise, a formal admission to all the Privileges generally claimable merely by virtue of a Domestic Degree.

I could never apprehend with what justice or propriety the Graduates of *Oxford* or *Cambridge* assume to themselves the title of *Regular Physicians*, exclusively of all others; and am apt to believe, that all the stock of Rhetoric and Logic, with which they may have furnished themselves there, will hardly enable them to support that distinction. How *Regularity*, with respect to

any liberal Art or Science, can be restrained to any particular place, I cannot imagine ; unless a Law were made, investing that place with the peculiar privilege of conferring upon Professors the character of *Regular*. As matters stand at present, I know but two things requisite to form a *Regular Physician*, To study Physic *regularly*, and to take a degree in a *regular* manner. To study any Art or Science *regularly* is, to do it according to the Method, which has been found by experience to be the most proper for the attainment of it ; beginning with such parts as are most simple and easy, and from thence proceeding to those which are more complicated and abstruse. To take a degree in a *regular* manner, is to take it according to the stated rules and customs of the University where it is taken, having undergone such examinations, and performed such exercices as are required. Whoever has qualified himself for practice, in both these respects, whether in his own country, or abroad, may justly be called a *Regular Physician*. To which appellation, in case his education has been partly foreign, he has still the more incontestable title, if he has complied with all the regulations prescribed by the laws of his own country, and been approved by that Authority, which they have appointed to rectify all irregularities in the practice of Physic. And therefore, no Doctor, either of *Oxford* or *Cambridge*, can with any better pretence assume to himself a Prerogative to deny any privilege, which the College is empowered to grant, than any Doctor of the College can deny any privileges conferred by either University. That these have been the sentiments of the generality of the Faculty, I think

think may be justly inferred from their conduct: for I cannot, upon the strictest inquiry, find, that the most eminent in our grand Metropolis ever refused to join in consultation with a Foreign Graduate, who had received the sanction of the Royal College. And yet these are the persons, from whom one would be the least surprised to hear some unfavourable declaration against Foreign Degrees. For such, having by their practice or writings, or both, rendered themselves famous, and retaining a great regard for the place of their education, where the foundation of all their fame and fortune was laid, may naturally enough be supposed to entertain prejudices against foreign Universities. Besides, such great men are apt to have some peculiar ways of thinking, which, tho' seeming paradoxical and whimsical, are excusable, as being so much over-balanced by their superior abilities. A WILLIS, a SYDENHAM, or a RADCLIFF might be indulged in Foibles of this kind, which like shades in a Picture, set off the lights to greater advantage. But should some Pert Physician, whose lot has fallen in the obscurity of the country, and whose reputation in the literary world stands much upon a level with mine, being puffed up with a pretty large Scene of Practice, give himself such haughty airs; as some might think, that he acted like ALEXANDER's wry-neck'd Courtier, they might likewise think, that his head ought to be set right in the same manner.—But You, Sir, cannot be charged with any affected mimickry of the learned or the great. You are no servile imitator of the WILLIS's, the SYDENHAMS, or the RADCLIFFS, either of former or present times. You act as a

perfect Original, doing what none of them ever attempted ; and by mere dint of your own Authority, invalidate all Foreign Degrees, cancel the *Licences* of the College of Physicians, and acknowledge none to be such, but those who have been, in your own sense of the words, *regularly bred*. What authority besides your own You have for such proceeding, I should be glad to know ; since the best and ablest Physicians never scruple to admit to a Consultation those who have taken a Foreign Degree, if they have received testimonials of their abilities from the Royal College.

Whence then arises this nice distinction of yours? Where the greatest Physicians in parallel cases have made none, what authority have you to do it in mine? It could not surely proceed from any fancied superiority of knowledge either in Botany, Chemistry, or Anatomy ; since at the time of your Academical studies, those introductory Arts were much better attained in *London* than in any other part of *England*. For was there during your residence in the University, a learned Professor always ready at proper seasons, to conduct disciples through all the classes of medicinal plants, in constant courses of Botanical Lectures ? Was there a sufficient number of Chemical Operators, both able and willing to undertake the trouble of instructing Pupils in all the necessary branches of that Art ? Was there any eminent Anatomist generally resident, who, being furnished with a continual supply of fresh bodies, could initiate, improve and perfect the young Students, by a repeated course of Lectures upon all the different parts of the human frame ?— If you should venture to answer these Questions in the affirmative, I must beg leave to tell you,

as having been informed by others, and as partly knowing myself, that the case was really very different. For I have been assured, that as to Chemistry many Medicinal Students in either of our Universities, were forced at that time to go through their courses at *London*; and as to Anatomy, I myself have been accompanied there by many of them through several courses, under the celebrated Dr. NICHOLS. And yet, I am certain, I never saw You there; nor can I find, upon diligent inquiry, that you ever gave yourself any trouble of this kind.

London is likewise universally acknowledged to be very advantageous to students in Physic in other respects. For wherever there are Hospitals, Infirmaries, and establishments of that nature, there are the proper places for young Physicians to qualify themselves thoroughly to appear upon the stage of the world. Upon which when they enter at first, * without having had some previous exercice and practice for a considerable time, tho' they may know the theory of Physic perfectly well, they must necessarily make but an indifferent figure. The more numerous in any place such receptacles for the diseased are, the more proper do they render it for the purpose just mentioned: on which account, scarce any in *Europe* can be more so than *London* and *Paris*. What distemper is there incident to human bodies, which in this way may not probably come under the inspection of a young Physician? who will have continual opportunities in these places of observing the practice of the elder and more

* *Nec medici, nec imperatores, nec oratores, quamvis artis præcepta percepint, quidquam magnâ laude dignum fine usu et exercitatione consequi possunt.* CIC. de offic. Lib. II. 18.

experienced:

experienced: which being exercised in a much freer manner upon this kind of Patients, than upon such as are in a less dependent state, may tend very much to the improvement of Physic, by discovering the particular virtues of some remedies, which otherwise might not have been known.

That the great Dr. RADCLIFF, who is universally allowed to have been a most competent Judge in these matters, was in a way of thinking not very different from this, is highly probable, from his having left by Will above six hundred pounds a year, to maintain two Students in Physic, from the time of their being Regent Masters; for the term of ten years; the better half of which they are obliged to spend in foreign Countries, and allowed to pass the rest in any part of *England*: an evident proof, that, in his opinion, they might make much greater improvement in Physic, for ten years, after the degree of Master of Arts, in other places, either abroad or at home, than in either of our Universities. Which sentiments of his have been lately most elegantly expressed by the learned Dr. LEWIS, in his * fine *Oration* at the opening of the Radclivian Library. I should therefore be unwilling to suppose, that you could be so ig-

* *Novit præterea, imo experientiâ suâ magistrâ optimè novit, si quis è medicorum græge elevari unquam, et in optimo Deæ salutis templo eminentiæ aliquid sperare audeat; cum non in arctis Academiæ finibus includi semper; non domi se quotidie continentem, immâni quadam et supervacanâ librorum copiâ obrui; sed libero et erecto esse animo; sed ingenio culto diu atque exercitato esse oporteat: ut non vanâ opinione, non levi et futili conjecturâ, sed certâ, sed indubitatâ experientiæ fide Medici nomen mereri disceret.—Ex hac igitur umbratili vita, in pul-verem atque solem filios suos evocari jussit. Pag. 14, 15.*
norant

norant, as not to be sensible of these superior advantages to a Student in Physic, or so hardy as to set up your private opinion in opposition to that of the great Dr. RADCLIFF ; who was the glory of his own time, is the admiration of the present, and will probably be so of all succeeding ages.

It may therefore justly be inferred by me, that your behaviour towards me must arise from selfish Motives ; without taking the trouble to add any particular arguments to enforce that inference. But since you have been pleased, by the very Excuses you thought fit to make, both to myself and others, to discover the true Motives upon which you acted ; it would be injustice to you, as well as myself, to conceal any part of your Apology on this occasion.

Had the pretended *Agreement* with Dr. FREWIN, &c. been made before my removal to Henley, as by your manner of speaking of it one might be apt to imagine ; it had been very natural for you to have mentioned it to my Friend, when he so frankly acquainted you with my design, and with the manner of my education. This open and undisguised treatment he might justly have expected, in return ; both as it would have answered the character he had received of You, and as it would have been the most likely way to divert me from my purpose.—As this is a presumption against the earliness of this *Agreement*, so there is more than one against the reality of it. For it is not likely, that Dr. FREWIN, a man of that age, learning, experience, and reputation in the world, should enter into any such engagement with *you* ; since he could have no manner of inducement from his inter. st

interest to enter into any such, even with elder and more eminent Physicians ; as by his situation he could have no apprehension of being ever disturbed by those of a foreign or different education.

That this *Agreement* was not thought of 'till after I had settled at *Henley*, and made some progress in business, is still more probable ; because Dr. *ZINZAN* himself did not refuse, about a year after my settling here, to consult with me ; and yet it cannot be supposed, that, if there had been such an early *Agreement* between Dr. *FREWIN*, Dr. *PITT*, and yourself, You would not have immediately acquainted Dr. *ZINZAN* with it, and with the manner in which I had been educated. When, notwithstanding the under-hand dealings of your Emissaries, my success began to touch you in a very sensible part, it is not unlikely, that upon your complaint to Dr. *FREWIN* and Dr. *PITT* of my placing myself so near you, they might declare pretty strongly in favour of our University Graduates ; and might perhaps say, They would do very well to refuse a consultation with those who had been educated elsewhere. But that *They* entered with *You* into any formal engagement to that purpose, as I have only your bare assertion for this, I must take the freedom to suspend my belief, and must beg the Reader to suspend his, for a very substantial reason, which I shall give before I conclude this *Letter*.

There is one circumstance in the management of this affair, which makes it look still more like a selfish invention and contrivance ; That when You had determined to refuse to consult with me, you delayed to acquaint me with it for a good while, tho' you had before communicated

your

your secret design to one of your Creatures, who himself lately told me, that he knew long before it happened, that this Refusal would be made some time or other. From whence it is evident, that You had for some time layed your Scheme, and probably had been so mean as to concert it with him ; that all your combustibles were prepared and artfully concealed ; and that you waited only for a proper opportunity to set fire to the train.

Another indication of the selfishness of this Refusal appeared plainly in one of the Excuses you thought fit to make, in order to remove the suspicion which I might be apt to entertain, that the whole was levelled personally at me.

“ Dr. MERRICK, you said, was very aged and infirm, and it was very likely that when he was gone off the Stage some person of Foreign Education might endeavour to settle at *Reading* ; which You and Dr. ZINZAN were determined if possible to prevent.” This frank Declaration, I then imagined, might have slipped inadvertently from you ; as the like sometimes happens to persons of great vivacity, whose volubility of speech goes on uninterrupted by any reflection. But I was afterwards credibly informed, to my great surprize, that you repeated the same Resolution, in almost the very same words, in that formal Speech which you thought proper to make to the Gentlemen of the Club at *Henley*. And as all the topics of that Speech had been well revolved, no doubt, in your mind, before the delivery ; I cannot but look upon this Declaration as the result of your most deliberate thoughts : but then I likewise think it evident, that these thoughts were entirely influenced

enced and directed by self-interest. For the terms in which you expressed yourself being general, without the least exception, you declared in effect, That You and Dr. ZINZAN would strenuously oppose any Foreign Graduate, who should pretend to settle at *Reading*, let his qualifications be what they would, even tho' they were ever so much superiour to your own. When such a Declaration as this comes to be generally known to the people of *Reading*, and of the places round about, what can they infer from it, but that looking upon your Patients as your property, You are resolved they shall not be alienated? There seems to me no other way of evading this interpretation of your words, and this inference from them, than by your owning frankly, that you really think that no *Foreign Graduate* can possibly be a better Physician than yourself, or your brother at *Reading*; and consequently, the health of your present Patients cannot possibly be in greater security for the future under the care of any such Person. If this be your modest opinion, as consistently with your Declaration it ought to be, you will find, I believe, scarce any who will give their assent to it. For You yourself cannot but know, that there are several very considerable Physicians who never studied at either University, and some who are at the very top of the profession. But since comparifons of this nature may seem invidious, and since what has been formerly may likewise happen again; I shall only desire You to consider the character of some eminent Physicians of former times, who were educated abroad: to whom if you have not the assurance to give yourself the

the preference, your Declaration is unjustifiable ; and if you have, the conceit must appear ridiculous to all.

In the same Speech you gave a farther proof of your strong attachment to your own dear interest, by insisting on an argument as odd as your Declaration, in words to this effect : " Your education you said cost you fifteen hundred pounds, whereas mine could not cost me above five hundred." By which it may justly be supposed, that you designed to insinuate, that your skill in Physic was superiour to mine by two parts in three ; and consequently that your advice was worth two thirds more than mine. Lest your audience should not readily draw the first of these Conclusions, from which the second naturally follows, you thought proper to give them a more explicit direction, by adding, " That You had spent fourteen years at Oxford before you could obtain a Doctor's Degree, which I had obtained much sooner abroad ; and that it was a great hardship, with respect to yourself, that I should be intituled to the same Privileges, since it could not be supposed that I was so well qualified for them." — How well qualified I may be, I shall leave to the Judgment of those who are not unacquainted with my practice and success.—By what means I endeavoured to qualify myself, I have given some account above.—How much sooner, after my first application to the study of Physic, I obtained my degree abroad, than You at home, is intirely unknown to you at present ; but I shall quickly enable you to give a tolerable guess.—That You spent fourteen Years at Oxford, I have not faith to believe, having been

assured that you begun practice, and resided at *Reading*, upon taking a Bachelor of Physic's degree : the time of which practice being deducted, will reduce the fourteen years to ten, being within one year of the very time required for a Doctor's degree at *Cambridge*; which you cannot deny to be sufficient, as you allow the validity of the Degrees there. But even of these ten years, which it shall be granted you spent at *Oxford*, including perhaps many months of absence, three years at least may reasonably be supposed to have been taken up by the study of such Arts as have no relation to that of Physic: which therefore ought likewise to be deducted, and will leave but seven years remaining, which can properly be said to have been employed in acquiring the qualifications necessary to a Doctor's Degree. If I then, for seven years together, applied myself closely to all those Arts, which are introductory to the knowledge of Medicine, without interruption from those which have no tendency thereto; pray, good Sir, how *much sooner*, computing the time which alone ought to be computed, did I obtain my Degree than you obtained yours? And if I passed those seven years, where I had as many and as good, nay, more and better opportunities of improvement, not only in the previous studies which form the Theory, but likewise by seeing a good deal of Practice; why may not I be *supposed as well qualified* as yourself? — Your Calculation then of the expence of your medicinal Education is carried much too high, when you make it amount to *fifteen hundred* pounds; reckoning, I suppose, one hundred pounds for the expence of each year,

year, and as much for that of your Doctorial Degree.

But allowing the whole account, and the disproportion betwixt the expence of your Education and mine to be as You have stated it ; yet the Inference you would have the world make from thence will never follow : for constant experience shews, that those Young Gentlemen, who spend the most money at the University, or anywhere else, very seldom make the greatest improvement.

To these few Observations upon the most material part of your Speech, I think it necessary to subjoin a word or two concerning the time you chose for the delivery of it. Tho' I cannot charge you with knowing, that I was obliged to be absent from the club of Gentlemen at *Henley* that day, yet I have some reason to suspect it. But supposing the contrary, I think a generous Adversary, especially one who, being no member of the Club, was little better than an Intruder, would have satisfied himself with recommending his Deputy, and forborne any invective against an absent member. But why should I mention what a generous person would have either done or avoided, to One whose whole conduct towards me has not been coloured with the least tincture of generosity ? Who, whenever he saw me, could put on a smiling mask of civility on purpose to amuse me, and prevent me from suspecting him capable of any formed design against me, which he was even then prosecuting in a clandestine manner. Nay, this Farce of external civility you continued to repeat, at the very time when you disclaimed holding

holding any Consultation with me ; making many professions of regard and kindness, and of your readiness to do me service in any other respect, which did not interfere with your *Word* and *Promise*. But this was too *gross* to pass ; and You soon found, that I was no longer to be deceived by your fair speeches.

This determined you to lay aside your dissimulation, and with a malicious sincerity to make your enmity and opposition public, by haranguing against me before a Society, of which I was a member, and You was not. You had however the precaution to retain so much of your usual conduct in your attaques upon me, as, in order to wound me with more security to yourself, to make them behind my back. Had I been present, I question whether any such Speech would have been made ; or if it had, by any thing I have heard of it, How easily might it have been answered ? I was therefore the less concerned, that I happened to be absent, when I was assured, that tho' the Orator met with no interruption in the pleasure of hearing himself talk, yet he gave not the least pleasure to the audience, either by the matter or manner of his Oration. If a Doctor should talk like an Apothecary among the lower administrators of Physic, against a person of whom they think they have reason to be jealous, self-admiration and self-interest will naturally induce them to give their approbation and applause. But Gentlemen of fortune, sense, literature, and impartiality would not precipitately countenance such a rude attaque upon an absent member of their Society ; which they had just cause to suspect proceeded solely from two very bad sources,

Avarice

Avarice and Malevolence. They could not but be surprised to see a person in such affluent circumstances so anxiously solicitous to prevent the least diminution of his Fees. They could not but resent such disrespectful and malicious treatment of a member of their Club, who had always shewed a proper respect and a benevolent disposition towards You.

But their surprize and resentment was increased, when you proceeded to desire them to employ a Brother Physician at *Reading* in your stead, whenever it should not suit with your convenience to attend them yourself. It is difficult to say, whether this request manifested more insolence towards them, or ill-will towards me. By employing You as their Physician, in preference to him, several of them had conferred upon You the greatest favour, which in your medicinal capacity you could reasonably expect or desire. But with this You was not satisfied : You had more comprehensive schemes in view, that extended to the depression of others, as well as the advancement of yourself; and regarded not only the present time, but the future. According to your opinion, at least according to your conduct, one favour is an earnest of another ; the more a man has received, the more he may justly ask ; and where he has succeeded well in soliciting for himself, he may reasonably expect the like success in his solicitations for another. Proceeding upon these maxims, you make a bold push to introduce a *coadjutor*, or rather *substitute* : whose business it is, in case a Patient should be attacked by any distemper, when You are at too great a distance, to act like a Subaltern, and keep the enemy in play

play by volleys of small shot, 'till You can come up with your Artillery and Magazine of Physic. This was not over modest in You, under pretence of respect and recommendation, to endeavour to preclude their choice. In choosing You, you will not deny, that they shewed sufficient judgment and discretion: could they not be trusted to choose another Physician for themselves? They had obliged You by their first choice: was it in order to shew your gratitude, that you would constrain them to oblige You more by giving up to you their second?

Had You introduced a perfect stranger to them, and made the like request in his behalf, tho' the presumption had been the same, yet it would have been less inexcusable, from the great occasion such a one must have had for some introduction and recommendation. But to undertake to recommend to those Gentlemen a person, with whose Character they were as well acquainted as You, was, to say the best of it, altogether needless; but to speak of it as it deserves, it carried along with it an intimation not very favourable, either to the company, or the person recommended.—It must suppose in them an incapacity of choosing a proper Physician for themselves; and that they were likely enough, without your interposition, to fix upon a less known and less deserving Person.—With regard to the person recommended, it could be no advancement of his character, to be proposed to act the part of a Deputy under You: an office, which some few years ago it was with just reason thought most likely for You to execute under him. For the Character of that Gentleman, both as a Scholar and a Physician, is well known. He had

had begun, continued, and finished his studies at *Oxford* with great reputation: his parts and learning in general, and his knowledge in his particular profession, were never questioned. He took the Degree of Master of Arts above ten years before You; and by discharging the honourable and difficult office of public Proctor to the satisfaction and applause of the University, shone conspicuous in the eyes of that learned Body, while you was scarce known.

Of such an extraordinary Conduct towards me, as has been here represented, it may be reasonably imagined there must have been some extraordinary Cause on my part: and therefore, Sir, before I finish, it will be proper to take notice of what You allege in excuse for it. All that I have heard is, That when my Friend first acquainted you with my Design, he told You, that it was only to practise Man-midwifery. This my Friend absolutely denies; and there are so many reasons against the probability of it, that they must render it altogether incredible.—To what purpose could he wait upon You, in so formal a manner, with a Letter from an intimate acquaintance of yours, in order to inform you of a design only, which could not give You the least umbrage, and in promoting which You could do me little or no service?—As I had originally professed, and continued to that time the practice of both Physic and Man-midwifery, was it at all likely, that my Friend should venture to suppress my intention as to the practice of the former? Could he be so weak as to endeavour to amuse you with a falsehood, which could not lie concealed longer than a few days; and which, when discovered,

must frustrate the very end of his waiting upon You, and justly render You my open adversary?

Your suppression of this Excuse for above a whole year, and not alleging it till after the affair of Mr. COMBEE broke out, makes it highly probable that there is no truth at all in it. For can any one think, that You would not have gladly produced this charge against me, as soon as ever You had heard of my practising Physic; which you must soon have heard upon my settling at this place? This would have exposed me to the just censure of all who heard it, and prevented me from gaining any business here.—But besides this strong ground of suspicion, You have given positive evidence against yourself twice: first, by telling my Friend, that You would have him advise me to settle at *High Wickham*, where there was neither *Physician* nor Man-midwife; and afterwards, by telling others, that by the account my Friend gave, You could not tell, whether I intended to practise as an Apothecary, Surgeon, Man-midwife, or Physician.

And now, Sir, I think I have answered every particular, which has been, or can be, alleged by You against my undertaking to practise Physic in this place. In doing which, I thought it necessary to be thus copious, in order to put a stop to the many gross misrepresentations in relation to me; of most of which I have all the reason in the world to believe, that You have been the chief author and promoter. To remove the ill effects of these misrepresentations, whereby the minds of some hereabouts had been prejudiced to my disadvantage, it became necessary for me to be thus particular in the representation

presentation of my Case, and to give You and myself this trouble. Otherwise I need have used but very few words ; and might have deny'd at once, That the very *Agreement* which you pretended you had made with Dr. FREWIN, Dr. PITT, Dr. HAYES, &c. and by which you said, that you was *obliged* not to consult with me, had any reality in it. For in a few days after our meeting at Mr. COMBEE's, Dr. HAYES declared to me, in presence of a Gentleman who will attest it, That He himself had *never* entered into any such *Agreement* with Dr. ADDINGTON, or any other Physician ; and That he *never* had heard even that any such *Agreement* had been entered into in any part of *England*.

And whereas you represented this *Agreement* to be general, absolute, and unconditional, against all Physicians who have not taken their Degree in our Universities ; I might safely deny, that any such *Agreement* was *ever* made with Dr. PITT. For I have certain information, that he very lately declared, that the Physicians of *Oxford* *never* refuse to consult with those of a Foreign Degree, provided they have also a *Licence* from the College of Physicians in *London*. It is incredible therefore, that Dr. PITT, whom I do and shall ever mention with honour, did ever enter into an *Agreement* with You, whereby I should be excluded ; unless you represented me *not* to be what you *knew* I was, and either denied or suppressed my Qualification from the College.

Thus, Sir, this pretended *Agreement* appears to be a very odd one ; an *Agreement*, to which there was no party but yourself ; and therefore it need not have given you *so much concern* on the account of its hindering you from consulting with

me. I leave You to reconcile these contradictory accounts, and to defend this part of your behaviour towards me ; and at the same time to give, if you please, any other reason why I may not be entitled to the privileges of my Profession, in common with others, whose education, degrees, and abilities have been approved by, and received a sanction from the College of Physicians. To hope for as much regard and favour from the world as Dr. ADDINGTON has surprizingly met with, may perhaps be unreasonable : I shall however depend upon some degree of it, as long as I shall make it my chief care and study to deserve it. If there was any thing in the particular Case of Mr. COMBEE, which you think could affect me, I desire You would not scruple to make it public ; for I should very gladly canvass that point with You.

I might justly expostulate farther with you, upon the long series of your injurious Treatment ; and might easily add many more Reflections upon this occasion. But such, I hope, will be partly suggested by your own mind, or at least supplied by the impartial consideration of others, who may be more inclined to do Justice to, Sir,

Henley, July 25,

1749.

Your bumble Servant,

RICHARD RUSSEL.



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